

52nd IAA HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4)
Scientific & Technical History (2)

Author: Mr. Michael Tilgner
Germany, Michael.Tilgner@kabelmail.de

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HERMANN GANSWINDT'S SPACEFLIGHT IDEAS

Abstract

Hermann Ganswindt (1856 - 1934) was one of the first persons at the end of the 19th century to propose publicly a flight into space and to the planets on the basis of the reaction principle. Therefore a crater on the far side of the Moon was named after him. However, it is still not widely known what he suggested exactly, as the prevailing accounts are based on secondary sources. The development of Hermann Ganswindt's ideas from a "space vehicle" to "resting places" in Earth orbit as a stepping stone to the planets will be traced, partly using hitherto unknown archival material.